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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF PENNSYLVANIA.

VOL. I.

JUNE, 1846.

No. 6.

Stated Meeting of Council; March 23, 1846.

VICE PRESIDENT ELWYN in the Chair.

Mr. Ward, from the Committee upon the portrait of William Penn, presented a report, whereupon it was

Resolved, That the gentlemen applying for permission to take a daguerreotype of the same, be allowed to do so, provided that it be done in the Hall of the Society.

The Foreign Corresponding Secretary presented a letter from John Jay, Esq., Corresponding Secretary of the New York Society, in relation to memorializing Congress respecting the accounts of the Exploring Expedition; whereupon it was

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to prepare a memorial to Congress from this Society, praying that an increased number of the works not yet published be printed for distribution amongst Institutions of Learning and Literary and Scientific Societies.

Mr. Reed called the attention of the Council to a passage in a letter from William Penn to the Duke of Marlborough, dated May 22, 1709, (published in the Society's Memoirs,) in relation to the future prospects of America.

A copy of the Memoirs of the Society was ordered to be presented to the New Jersey Historical Society.

DONATIONS.

From John Jordan, Jr. American Criminal Trials, vol. 2; Stone's Life of Red Jacket.

From John T. Bell. The Norristown Gazette from October 4, 1799, to May, 1800; a Pass dated Oct. 9, 1764, signed by William Dewees.

From the New Jersey Historical Society. Report concerning colonial documents in England; Statistics of the New Jersey Penitentiary from 1799 to 1845.

From C. A. Poulson, Jr. Writings and Memoir of Robert C. Sands, 2 vols.; Memoirs of the Rev. David Brainerd, Missionary.

From J. Francis Fisher. American Military Pocket Atlas, London, 1776.

From the British Government. Proceedings and Ordinances of the Privy Council of England, 7 vols.; Kalenders and Inventories of his Majesty's Exchequer, 3 vols.; Rotuli Curiae Regis, 2 vols.; Rotuli Normaniæ in Turri Londinensi, 1 vol.; Excerptæ e Rotulis Finium, 2 vols.; Documents and Records illustrating the History of Scotland, 1 vol.; Fines, 2 vols.; Rotuli de Oblatis et Finibus, 1 vol.; the Great Rolls of the Pipe, 2 vols.; Rotuli de Librate, 1 vol.; Rotuli Scotiæ, 2 vols.; Rotulorum Originalium Abbreviates, 2 vols.; Rotuli Chartarum, 1 vol.; Description of the Patent Rolls, 1 vol.; Documents illustrative of English History, 1 vol.; Rotuli Literarum Clausarum, 2 vols.; Ancient Laws and Institutes of Wales, 1 vol.; the Record of Cærnarvon, 1 vol.; Placitorum Abbreviatis, 1 vol.; General Report of the Commissioners on Public Records, 1 vol.; Nonarum Inquisitiones, 1 vol.; Parliamentary Writs, 4 vols. Total, 40 vols.

From C. C. Ashmead. Fac Simile of a medal of George I, found in an Indian Fort at Wyoming.

From John T. Lewis. Some account of the Pennsylvania Hospital from its first rise in May, 1754.

From the New Jersey Historical Society. The first volume of their collections; First Annual Address, by Bishop Doane.

From Mr. Randolph. The skull of a Native American Indian, found in a grave in Market street above Third street in 1841.

From Thomas Neil, of Allegheny County. The Narrative of the sufferings of Massey Harbeson, Beaver, 1836.

From Andrew Blair, of Carlisle. The Original Charter from Gov. Richard Penn, (1772,) authorising two fairs to be annually held in that town.

From Spenser F. Baird, of Carlisle. The Original Letter from Nicholas Moore to the Emperor of Canada.

From the New York Historical Society. Essay on the Oregon Question, by Albert Gallatin.

From James H. Castle. Delafield's American Antiquities.

From Dr. H. J. Beyerle, of Dauphin County. Nachrichten Erzählungen ueber die Vereinigten Staaten von America. Frankfurt, 1814.

From Seth Salisbury, State Librarian. His Report to the Legislature.

Dr. Robert Morris and Professor John F. Fraser were elected Contributing Members.

Samuel S. Haldeman, of Chickasalongo ; J. G. Conyngham, of Lancaster ; John G. Wolfinger, of Northumberland ; John Hickman, Jr., J. Smith Futhey, Joseph C. Strode and John S. Bowen, of West Chester, were elected Corresponding Members.

Stated Meeting of Council, May 25, 1846.

MR. DUANE in the Chair.

The Domestic Corresponding Secretary read an interesting letter from Mr. Kennedy, of Meadville, giving some valuable information concerning certain MSS., and promising some donations to the Society ; whereupon

Mr. Redmond Conyngham, of Lancaster County, Corresponding Member, presented some important information respecting the Shippen Papers and Documents relative to the History of the State.

DONATIONS.

From John Jordan, Jr. Churchman's Travels.

From John Goodman, Esq. The Second Volume of the Original Minutes of the Committee of Defence of Philadelphia during the last war with England.

A. S. Green, Edwin H. Ward, M. D., and Hanson Robinson, were elected Contributing Members.

The Rev. Dr. Upfold, of Pittsburgh ; J. Jenkins Ross, of Northampton ; Spenser Fullerton Baird, of Carlisle ; and Levi Lewis, of Radnor Township, Delaware County, were elected Corresponding Members.

George Sumner, of Boston ; Charles Sumner, of Boston ; and John Jay, of New York, were elected Honorary Members.

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SAFETY OF
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,

From February 8th, 1776, to April 17th, 1777.

[From the Original MS. lately Presented to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.]

On the 8th of February, 1776.

The following gentlemen being previously nominated by the respective townships to serve in this Committee for the County of Northumberland for the space of six months, met at the house of Richard Malone, viz.:

Augusta Township.

John Weitzel, Esq.,
Alexander Hunter, Esq.,
Thomond Ball.

Turbut Township.

Capt. John Hambright,
William McKnight,
William Shaw,

Bald Eagle Township.

Mr. William Dunn,
Thomas Hewes,
Alexander Hamilton.

Wioming Township.

Mr. James Maclure,
Mr. Thomas Clayton,
Mr. Peter Melick.

Moughonoy Township.

Mahoning Township.

William Cook, Esq.,
Benj. Allison, Esq.,
Mr. Thomas Hewet.

Muncey Township.

Robert Robb, Esq.,
William Watson,
John Buckalow.

Buffaloe Township.

Mr. Walter Clarke, removed to
White Deer,
William Irwin,
Joseph Gear.

Penn's Township.

Potter Township.

John Livingston,
Maurice Davis,
—— Hall.

White Deer Township.

Walter Clarke,
Matthew Brown,
Marcus Hulwig.

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman and Clerk, when Capt. John Hambright was unanimously appointed Chairman during the continuance of this Committee, and Thomond Ball, Clerk.

A return was presented to this Committee, signed by William Scull, Esq., Chairman of a meeting of the officers and committee-

men of the lower division of this county, held at Northumberland the 7th inst., certifying that the following gentlemen were duly elected field officers for the Battalion of said division, viz.:

Samuel Hunter, Esq., Colonel.
 William Cook, Esq., Lt. Colonel.
 Casper Weitzel, Esq., First Major.
 Mr. John Lee, Second Major.

Resolved, That we accept of the same as a true return, and that the gentlemen therein mentioned be recommended to the Hon. Assembly or Committee of Safety to be commissioned accordingly.

Complaint being made that the battalion of the upper division of this County have not yet met so as to have a fair election for field officers,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the officers, with three committeemen from each township in said division, to meet at the house of John Scudder, on Saturday, 24th inst., to elect their field officers and return them to this committee on Monday, 26th inst., in order to be recommended to the Committee of Safety.

Resolved, That the absence of several gentlemen chosen Captains of companies in this county (upon their several occasions) and such as did appear (from the short notice they have had) not being provided with as regular returns of their officers and companies as we think can authorize our recommendation of said captains or their subalterns to the Assembly or Committee of Safety of this Province, to remedy this inconvenience it is recommended to the committeemen of each township to advertise a meeting of the several companies on Wednesday, 21st inst., at such places as the majority of the committeemen shall think most convenient, where, under the inspection of two or more committeemen, each company shall establish their present, or elect other officers, as they shall think proper, and the captains so established or elected shall make returns of their subalterns and companies to this committee on Monday, 26th inst. It is expected that no gentlemen will offer to return a company that does not consist of forty privates with the officers and non-commissioned officers, agreeable to the regulations of our Hon. House of Assembly.

Resolved, That if a committeeman or committeemen be elected officers, one or more magistrate or magistrates present may certify for them, and if no magistrate be present, then two or more reputable men certifying for the justness of the election will be accepted of.

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Committee that a petition be presented to the Hon. Assembly of this province, setting forth the late murder of two of the sheriff's posse, near Wioming, for attempting to act in conformity to the laws.

Resolved, That John Weitzel, Esq., Alexander Hunter, Esq., and Mr. Thomond Ball, be a committee to frame said petition and present it to this Committee at their next meeting.

The Committee then adjourned to Monday, 26th inst., at the house of Lauglin McCartney, in Northumberland Town.

Monday, February 26th, 1776.

The Committee met according to adjournment at the house of Lauglin McCartney, in Northumberland Town—Captain John Hambright in the Chair.

Messrs. Weitzel, Hunter and Ball presented the form of a petition to the Hon. Assembly, relative to the Connecticut intruders, which was approved of and ordered to be copied fair.

The following gentlemen appeared and produced certificates of their being regularly chosen captains of companies in Colonel Hunter's battalion, and produced lists of their subalterns, companies, &c., viz.

Captain, Nicholas Miller,
1st Lieut. Christopher Gettigg,
2d Lieut. Nehemiah Breese,
1st Ensign, Gustavus Ross,
2d Ensign, William Sims.

Captain, Hugh White,
1st Lieut. John Forster
2d Lieut. Andrew Gibson,
Ensign, Samuel Young.

Captain, James McMahon,
1st Lieut. John Murray,
2d Lieut. William Fisher,
Ensign, William Bailly.

Captain, Charles Gillespie,
1st Lieut. Robert King,
2d Lieut. Samuel Fulton.
1st Ensign, William Boyd,
2d Ensign, John Woodside.

Captain, William Scull,
1st Lieut. Jonathan Lodge,
2d Lieut. George Colhoun,
1st Ensign, William Sawyers,
2d Ensign, George Grant.

Captain, William Clarke,
1st Lieut. John Teitson,
2d Lieut. William McDonald,
1st Ensign, John Moll.

Resolved, That the above six companies appear to be full and regularly officered, and that they, with the field officers of that battalion, be recommended to the Committee of Safety to receive their respective commissions, which was done in a letter, of which the following is an abstract.

NORTHUMBERLAND, February 26, 1776.

GENTLEMEN,—At a meeting of the Committee for this County, held this day, the following gentlemen were returned as duly elected Field Officers, Captains and Subalterns of a Battalion raised in this county, viz.—the officers mentioned above. The above returns of six companies belonging to the battalion expected to be commanded by Samuel Hunter, Esq., appear to be well and regularly certified as complete companies. There are two or three

companies more intend to belong to said battalion, but their captains being at present out of the county, we have received no returns of them. We further have the pleasure to inform you there is another complete battalion formed in this county, intended to be under the command of William Plunket, Esq., but he with his other field officers being so lately promoted, their companies have not had sufficient time to elect captains in their room, we therefore think we cannot at present with propriety recommend them, but hope in a few days to have the honour of transmitting to you a proper return of said battalion. In the mean time take the liberty to recommend the above named gentlemen to be commissioned in the several stations annexed to their names.

And are gentlemen, with due esteem,

Your very humble servant,

By order of the Committee,

JOHN HAMBRIGHT, Chairman.

To the Committee of Safety, Philadelphia.

Resolved, That as several companies belonging to battalions in this county have not yet brought in their returns, and it may be inconvenient to call the whole Committee together to receive their returns, that the Chairman, with four others of the Committee, be sufficient to receive such returns and recommend the officers to the Committee of Safety.

Resolved, That this Committee be adjourned to Wednesday, 13th of March next, then to meet at the house of Frederick Stone in Northumberland Town.

—
Wednesday, March 13th, 1776.

The Committee met at the house of Frederick Stone in Northumberland Town agreeable to adjournment, Captain John Hambright in the Chair, when the following gentlemen made returns of their officers, captains, subalterns, &c., properly certified, viz.:

William Plunket, Esq., Colonel,
James Murray, Esq., Lieut. Colonel,
Mr. John Brady, 1st Major,
Mr. Cookson Long, 2d Major.

Captain, Henry Antis, Esq.,
1st Lieut. Thomas Brandon,
2d Lieut. Alexander Hamilton,
1st Ensign, John Morison,
2d Ensign, James Alexander.

Captain, Samuel Wallis,
1st Lieut. John Scudder,
2d Lieut. Peter Jones,
Ensign, James Hampton.

Captain, John Robb,
1st Lieut. William Watson,
2d Lieut. Robert Wilson,
Ensign, James White.

Captain, William McHaton,
1st Lieut. Andrew Boggs,
2d Lieut. Thomas Wilson,
Ensign, John McCormack.

Captain, William Murray,
1st Lieut. Richard Irwin,
2d Lieut. Thomas Plunket,
1st Ensign, Andrew Robinson,
2d Ensign, Benjamin Jordon.

Captain, Simon Cool,
1st Lieut. Thomas Camplen,
2d Lieut. James Brandon,
1st Ensign, William King,
2d Ensign, James Hewes.

Captain, David Berry,
1st Lieut. William Hammond,
2d Lieut. Joseph Bonser,
Ensign, Israel Pershel.

Resolved, That the returns made of the above mentioned field officers and seven companies appear to be regular and well certified as full companies, and that [the] officers be recommended to the Committee of Safety, which [was] done by letter of which the following is a copy.

NORTHUMBERLAND, March 13th, 1776.

GENTLEMEN,—Agreeable to the promise of our last of 26th ult., we now inform that at a meeting of the committee for this county held this day, the following gentlemen were returned as fairly elected field officers, captains and subalterns of a battalion raised in this county, viz.:

William Plunket, Esq., Colonel, and the rest as above.

The above returns of officers for a battalion consisting of seven companies, appear to us to be regular and well certified to be complete companies; we therefore take the liberty of recommending said gentlemen to the respectable Committee of Safety appointed for the Province of Pennsylvania to receive commissions in the several stations annexed to their names. Being unwilling to trouble the committee, who, we apprehend, are already over-burthened with business, we have transmitted an enumeration of grievances under which we think this county labours, to Samuel Hunter, Esq., our representative, and one of your respectable body, who is well acquainted with the circumstances of this county, requesting he may, if necessary, lay the same before you, and should be glad of your opinion how to act in the different cases therein mentioned.

We are, gentlemen, &c.

Signed by order of the Committee,

JOHN HAMBRIGHT, Chairman.

To the Committee of Safety, Philadelphia.

[Copy of the Letter referred to in the above.]

NORTHUMBERLAND, March 13th, 1776.

SIR,—We have this day wrote to the Committee of Safety, recommending officers of another battalion, to wit, Colonel Plunket's. We had it in contemplation to write to the Committee of Safety concerning the recruiting parties that have lately been amongst us and taken away some good men, when both officers and men could be sent from this, if any ought to be sent out of the county. It is unnecessary for us to inform you of our situation, as you are so well acquainted with it. There have been different applications to us for recommendations as officers of companies to be raised in this county, to go into immediate service; we are somewhat at a loss what to do, but would be desirous, if men are to be taken for the continental service out of this county, officers should go with them. We, not considering it proper to trouble the Committee of Safety with our sentiments on this occasion, have taken the liberty to write to you, with an intention to get your advice upon the matter, as we cannot prevent recruiting parties from coming amongst us, or stop men from going into the army out of this county. If more battalions should be raised, or more men wanted, would it not be proper from our situation as a frontier county to have two or three companies raised, officered and disciplined, and put into immediate pay; and if not wanted nearer home, to be always in readiness to go upon any service on which the continent may have occasion for them. We have sufficient information that Hawkins Boone has enlisted several men in this county, and has declared his having received his authority and money from the Congress for that purpose, and that he is to be a guard to the Congress. By this conduct he has drawn off some men from the different companies of military associators. We have as a committee of the county taken liberty to cite him to appear before some of us and show by what authority he has undertaken so to do, but he has not appeared. We think when men are enlisted in this county, we have a right to know for what service they are enlisted. It is from our zeal for the good cause now carrying on that we are desirous to know the reason of such procedure. This, if you think proper, you may communicate to the Committee of Safety, and are requesting your advice how to act.

With due respect, your very humble servants.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

JOHN HAMBRIGHT, Chairman.

To Samuel Hunter, Esq., Philadelphia.

Information being given to the Committee that a certain Hawkins Boone is now enlisting men in this county, without giving any satisfactory account for what purpose or service the said men are enlisted,

Resolved, That the Chairman of this Committee call upon the said Hawkins Boone, by letter or otherwise, to appear before him and two or more of said Committee, as he, the Chairman, shall think expedient, on such day and at such place as he shall appoint, to show cause why he, the said Boone, enlists men as aforesaid.

Resolved, That this Committee be adjourned to Monday, 25th of March instant, then to meet at the house of Thomond Ball in Sunbury.

Monday, March 25th, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment at the house of Thomond Ball in Sunbury, Captain John Hambright in the Chair

Resolved, That it appears to this Committee that several recruiting officers belonging to battalions of different counties in this Province, have lately come to this infant frontier county and drained it of a number of useful men, to the prejudice of the same.

Resolved, That for the future no officer or non-commissioned officer be allowed to recruit men in this county, except the officers who are or may be appointed therein.

John Simpson, Esq., presented a return, wherein appears the following list of officers, the company belonging to Col. Hunter's battalion, viz.:

Captain, John Simpson, Esq.,
1st Lieut. Robert Curry,
2d Lieut. John Ewart.
1st Ensign, Thomas Gaskins,
2d Ensign, David Meads.

Resolved, That the same appears a full company, and that the gentlemen therein mentioned as officers, be recommended to the Committee of Safety to receive their several commissions, which was done accordingly by a letter, of which the following is a copy.

SUNBURY, 27th March, 1776.

GENTLEMEN,—Our last to you was of 13th inst., recommending William Plunket, Esq., colonel, with other officers of a battalion commanded by said Col. At this meeting John Simpson, Esq., presents a return in which it appears that he is Captain, Robert

Curry, 1st, and John Ewart, 2d Lieutenants, Thomas Gaskins, 1st, and David Mead, 2d Ensign, which is well certified to be a full company belonging to Col. Hunter's battalion; we therefore take the liberty of recommending said gentlemen to receive commissions agreeable to the ranks to which the people have appointed them. We are now, gentlemen, to inform you of what we think a grievance to this young and thinly inhabited county, viz. a constant succession of recruiting officers from different counties in this province. Our zeal for the cause of American liberty has hitherto prevented our taking any steps to hinder the raising of men for its service, but finding the evil increasing so fast upon us as almost to threaten the depopulation of the county, we cannot help appealing to the wisdom and justice of your Committee to know whether the quota of men that may be demanded from this county under their own officers is not as much as can reasonably be expected from it. Whether at a time when we are uncertain of peace with the Indians (well knowing that our enemies are tampering with them) and a claim is set up to the greatest part of this province by a neighboring colony who have their hostile abettors at our very breasts, as well as their emissaries amongst us, is it prudent to drain an infant frontier county of its strength of men? and whether the safety of the interior parts of the province would not be better secured by adding strength to the frontiers? Whether our Hon. Assembly, by disposing of commissions to gentlemen in different counties to raise companies which are to form the number of battalions thought necessary for the defence of the province, did not intend that the respective captains should raise their companies where they [were] appointed? and not distress our county by taking from it all the men necessary for the business of agriculture, as well as the defence of the same? From our knowledge of the state of this county, we make free to give our opinion of what would be most for its advantage, as well as that of the province, (between which we hope there never will be a difference;) and first are to inform you [of] the poverty of the people, many of whom came bare and naked here, being plundered by a banditti who call themselves Yankies, and those who brought some property with them from the necessary delay of cultivating a wilderness before they could have any produce to live upon, together with the necessity of still continuing the closest application to labor and industry for their support, renders it morally improbable that a well disciplined militia can be established here, as the distance which some men are obliged to go to muster is the loss of two days to them, which, not being paid for, they will not, nor indeed can they so often attend as is necessary to complete them even in the manual exercise. We would recommend that two or more companies be raised and put in pay for the use of the province, to be ready to march when

and where the service may require them, and when not wanted for the service of the public at any particular place, to be stationed in this county in order to be near and defend our frontier, should they be attacked by our enemies of any denomination, the good effect of which we imagine would be considerable, as though they may be too few to repel, they may stop the progress of an enemy until the militia could be raised to assist them. Should this proposal appear eligible, please to inform us thereof, and we will recommend such gentlemen for officers as we think will be most suitable for the service and agreeable to the people.

We are, gentlemen, with due respect,
 Your very humble servants,
 Signed for and in behalf of the Committee,
 JOHN HAMBRIGHT, Chairman.

To the Committee of Safety, Philadelphia.

August ye 13th, 1776.

The following gentlemen being unanimously chosen by their respective townships to serve in the Committee for the County of Northumberland, for the space of six months, met at School-house in the town of Northumberland, viz :

For Augusta Township.

Mr. William McClay,
 " David McKinney,
 " John McClay.

Turbit Township.

George McCandlish.
 Wm. Shaw,
 Paul Geddis.

Bald Eagle Township.

Robert Fleming,
 Thomas Campling,
 John Section.

Wyoming Township.

Samuel McClure,
 Peter Meelick,
 John Clingman.

Moughonoy Township.

Bastian Brossius,
 George Reitz,
 Peter Almang,

Mahoning Township.

Laughlan McCartney,
 Thomas Robinson,
 John Boyd.

Muncy Township.

Mordecai McKinney,
 James Giles,
 Andrew Culbertson.

Buffaloe Township.

Martin Treaster,
 William Speedy,
 Philip Coal.

Penn's Township.

Simeon Woodrow,
 Adam B. Mander,
 Paul Gemberling.

Potter's Township.

White Deer Township.

James McClanachan,
 Robert Frute,
 Wm. Gray.

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman and Clerk, when Mr. Robert Frute was unanimously appointed Chairman during the time of six months, and John Boyd, Clerk.

1st. *Resolved*, That no complaint be received by this Committee that arises in any township and does not respect the county at large, except upon an appeal from the township committee, and that such appeal be delivered in writing, as well as all complaints that are received, and that all complaints be signed by the person aggrieved or complaining.

2d. *Resolved*, That Andrew Culbertson, Mordecai McKinney, and James Giles, call upon Col. Wm. Plunket for the dividend of ammunition belonging to the six companies of his battalion that lie above Muncy, and in case it is inconvenient for him to make the dividend, Laughlan McCartney, at whose house the ammunition is lodged, is hereby desired to do it and deliver the quotas allotted for the aforesaid six companies to the aforesaid Andrew Culbertson, Mordecai McKinney, and James Giles, who are to deliver the same to the respective captains, and by them kept in some convenient dry place, ready to be delivered out when occasion requires.

3d. *Resolved*, That the Committee, or any two of them belonging to the other three battalions of this county, call upon Laughlan McCartney for their equal dividend of what ammunition is in hand, and deliver to the respective captains in each battalion an equal dividend of said ammunition according to their number of men, and by them kept secure in some convenient dry place ready to be delivered out when occasion requires.

4th. *Resolved*, That each colonel recommend to their respective captains to use all possible to have any arms that are out of repair put in as good order as soon as possible.

As this Committee is informed of a quantity powder and lead at Mr. John Harris's ferry, which belongs to the associators of this county, we do recommend Major John Lee and Captain Charles Gillespy as two suitable persons for to bring up the same, and we do appoint Laughlan McCartney, and John Boyd for to agree with them for the bringing up of the said ammunition.

5th. *Resolved*, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday, the 10th of September next, to meet in the town of Northumberland.

Tuesday y^e 10 of September, 1776.

The Committee met according to adjournment, in the town of Northumberland—Mr. Robert Frute in the Chair.

Complaint being made to this Committee against Mr. Aaron Levy and John Bullion, setting forth that the aforesaid Levy and

Bullion have a quantity of salt on hand which they refuse to sell for cash, by a former resolve of the Committee.

Resolved, That the aforesaid salt that is in the hands of the afforesaid Levy and Bullion, (as they have refused the same for sale,) be put into the hands of Mr. Wm. Sayers, and by him sold at the rate of fifteen shillings per bushel, and not to sell unto any family above half a bushel for the time that the said salt is selling, and that the said Sayers shall keep a particular account of every bushel that he sells, and when sold, he shall return the money arising from said salt to this Committee, first deducting one shilling out of the Pound for his trouble of selling said salt, and six shillings and four pence for portorage.

A complaint being made to this Committee against two certain men, namely, William Chattim and James Parker, of not behaving themselves as friends to our country in general, and had armed themselves with two pistols, therefore, it was

Resolved, That the aforesaid Chattim and Parker should be sent for and examined.

Being brought before the Committee and examined, they confessed themselves to be two of His Britannic Majesty's soldiers, and both prisoners. Therefore, this Committee thought it most proper to convey the two aforesaid men into the care of Lancaster Committee, where we understand there is a number of their fellow prisoners, and that the aforesaid arms should be sold at public sale, and the money arising from the sale of said arms, should, as far as it would admit of, be put to discharge of such expenses as should arise for the trouble of said prisoners.

And as there was a bill of expenses produced to this Committee by John Chattim, against the two aforesaid prisoners, and he refusing to prove the same, it was *resolved*, that the aforesaid bill shall not be accepted of by this Committee unless the aforesaid John Chattim do prove the same.

September 12th, 1776.

On examination of the two different quantities of ammunition heretofore forwarded to the care of the Committee of this county, and on a careful examination of the number of associators in this county, it appears that the quota of each associator is half a pound of powder and one pound of lead.

And whereas, the greater part of Col. Plunket's battalion are situated in the frontier, and most exposed parts of this county; therefore, *resolved*, that the further quantity of eighty-nine pounds of powder and one hundred and seventy-eight pounds of lead be delivered into the hands of Mr. Fleming, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Thempling, Mr. Culbertson, and Mr. Giles, and that the same be by them delivered among the different captains of the said

battalion, with the strictest charge that the same be preserved for the purpose of the defence of this county.

The same division to be made with a proper regard to the different numbers in each company. And it is further resolved, that the further quantity of eighty-six pounds and three quarters of powder, and the quantity of one hundred and seventy-three pounds and one half of lead be delivered to Mr. Fruit, Mr. Gray, Mr. McClannachan, Mr. Shaw, Mr. McCandles and Mr. Geddis, to be by them distributed among the captains of Col. Potter's battalion in such sort that each private have one quarter of powder and half a pound of lead, Captain McMillan's company excepted, who are to have each half a pound of powder and one pound of lead.

And it is further *resolved*, that the further quantity of fifty pounds of powder and one hundred pounds of lead be delivered to Mr. Coal, Mr. Treaster, Mr. Bolander, Mr. Brouers and Mr. Rilz, by them to be divided among the captains of Col. Wiser's battalion in the same proportions as the former fifty weight of powder was directed to be divided.

It is likewise further *resolved*, that the additional quantity of fifty pounds of powder and one hundred weight of lead be delivered to John Maclay, Laughlin McCartney and James McClure, to be by them divided among the captains of Col. Hunter's battalion, in due proportion to the number of privates in their respective companies.

Whereas, This Committee being informed by one of our members of convention that there is a dividend of salt in Philadelphia, which is allotted for this county by a late resolve of Convention, therefore, this Committee thought proper to appoint two suitable persons to go to Philadelphia and take charge of said salt, and [to] be by them conveyed to this county and delivered to the care of this Committee. Therefore, William McClay and Mordecai McKinney were unanimously appointed by this committee for the purpose above mentioued.

Resolved, That the salt belonging to this county is to be sold at fifteen shillings per bushel.

A complaint being laid unto this Committee by Samuel Dail against Col. William Plunket, the same being read, was postponed until our next meeting.

A record of Mr. Robert Fruit's letter to this Committee respecting salt, &c.:

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 23, 1776.

GENTLEMEN:—I have received from the Council of Safety in this city, seventy-seven bushels of salt for the use of the inhabitants of the county of Northumberland, which I have delivered to Marcus Hulings to forward up.

It is delivered to me on the express condition of being divided

amongst those of the inhabitants who did not get any part of the former quantity ; therefore, you will please to take notice to inform the county of this exception when you advertise for the distribution of it. Mr. Hulings has advanced all the money for the salt, together with all costs, &c.

I am gentlemen, your very humble servant,

ROBERT FRUIT.

To the Committee of Northumberland County.

The Committee of the County of Northumberland,

To MARCUS HULINGS,

Dr.

For cash paid the Council of Safety in Philadelphia			
for 77 bushels of salt at 15s per bushel,	-	£ 57	15
For cash paid for casks to pack said salt,	-	-	3
Porterage and cooperage,	-	-	18
Cash paid Hugh Cook for carriage of 77 bushels salt			
from Philadelphia to Middletown,	-	13	9 6
Storage at Middletown,	-	-	8 6
Carriage from Middletown to Northumberland,	-	11	11
		£ 87	2 0

December 14, 1776.

The Committee met by express from Captain John Brady, upon sundry charges produced by said Brady against a certain Robert Robb. Sundry evidences were referred to, to prove the several charges against said Robb, which are as follows :

The evidence of Thomas Newman against Robert Robb.

This deponent being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that said Robb had a paper at a certain house where they were erecting a chimney, which paper was supposed to be from Lord Howe concerning conditions of peace, of which said Robb said this is the very thing I would be at : says further Mr. Frankling was a rogue, he well knew, and that he has led the government into two or three scrapes already known to him. Also it was thought Frankling had a pension from home, likewise that it was thought the convention was bribed. Also said Robb says that Lord Howe used the Members of Congress politely that were sent to treat with him, but that they used him ill.

And that as this deponent was one of the township committee, he the said Robb thought it was proper he should call a few of the township together to consult concerning these things. And further saith not.

his
THOMAS X NEWMAN,
mark.

Joseph Newman's evidence against said Robb.

That Robert Robb read at the aforesaid place a paper, [which] (as the deponent supposeth) was a declaration of peace from Lord Howe, and asked this deponent's father if he would call a few of the neighbours to consult concerning it, and that his father refused to do it. And concerning the Members of Congress, Mr. Robb said Lord Howe used them politely, and they used him ill. And as for Mr. Frankling, there were very hard thoughts of him, and that it was thought he had a pension from home, also that it was thought there was bribery in the Convention.

And further saith not.

JOSEPH NEWMAN.

The substance of John Morris's evidence against Robert Robb.

This deponent saith he heard Robert Robb read a paper concerning terms of peace from Lord Howe; said Robb was asked why this paper was not made public sooner. Robb said because it was kept back by the Congress and Committees below. Said Robb said also it is well known what Writtenhouse and Frankling was. Mr. Newman asked said Robb what was the reason there was such men in Congress. Robb said it was thought there was bribery in the Convention, also said it was a minority that held this new form of government, and that the majority would not be ruled by the minority.

And further saith not.

JOHN MORRIS.

The substance of James Giles' evidence.

This deponent saith that he saw Mr. Robb pull out a paper at the aforesaid building, read it, which he said was printed in New York near three months ago. Mr. Newman asked said Robb how it came to be kept back. This deponent saith he understood Mr. Robb said it was our rulers kept it back, and that the substance of the above paper was terms of peace from Lord Howe.

And further saith not.

JAMES GILES.

The Evidence of George Silverthorn for Robert Robb, viz.

This deponent being at Mr. Robb's house, and from there went together to a chimney raising in the neighbourhood. After a while said Robb pulled out a handbill which gave an account of General Washington's army's being in need of a reinforcement, and Mr. Robb said in public that it was necessary for every one to turn out that would go. However, after a while Mr. Robb pulled out another paper, which he said was a Declaration of

Peace from Lord Howe and read it in public. After reading the said paper Mr. Robb said he came on purpose to see Mr. Newman, and whether or not he thought proper to call some of the neighbours together in order to see whether or not the said Declaration was of any effect or not, as he was one of the Town Committee, or how they would take it, as he would not depend upon his own judgment on such an occasion, as being but one person. And this deponent saith that after the papers came out which gave an account of what passed between General Howe and them at Staten Island, this deponent was telling said Robb that he had heard them read at Mr. McKinney's, and that Mr. Robb said that he thought it would not be proper to lay down their arms till peace would be concluded on better terms than these for the benefit of the country.

And further saith not.

GEORGE SILVERTHORN.

Lieutenant John Scudder being duly sworn, saith that Robert Robb said that the King's troops are able to learn us to beat themselves as Peter the Great said of Charles, King of Sweden, and that the said Robb never did any thing against the cause of America, but always encouraged the same to the best of his knowledge; and further saith that Mr. Newman charged Robert Robb with discouraging people going into the service, and that George Silverthorn and his family were the people.

And further saith not.

JOHN SCUDDER.

December 17th, 1776.

Northumberland County.—The Committee of this County taking the proofs and allegations for and against Robert Robb, under their serious consideration do judge that the said Robb hath behaved in such a manner as gives just grounds for this Committee to suspect him of being not only unfriendly, but inimical, to our common cause; therefore

Resolved, That said Robert Robb shall either take his gun and march immediately with the militia of this county into actual service for the defence of the United States, in order to wipe off the present evil suspicions, or otherwise to be committed to the care of Lieut. Col. James Murray of the 2d Battalion, to be by him sent to some proper place of confinement until released by further authority.

Signed by order of the Committee,

PAUL GEDDIS, Chairman.

December 18th, 1776.

The above Robert Robb desires to appeal to the Council of Safety of this State.

Resolved, That said Robb may appeal to said Council, under the care of the said Col. Murray.

Signed by order of the Committee.

PAUL GEDDIS, Chairman.

January 1st, 1777.

The Complaint of Peter Smith against Robert Robb.

To the Honorable Committee of Northumberland County:

That on the 20th of last month, at the house of Capt. John Brady, said Robb did violently beat and very much abuse said Smith, and further produceth James Brady and Jean Kennan as evidence of said charge, and also Patrick Murdock as evidence afterwards to the wounds alleged to be received by said Smith from said Robb.

his
PETER ✕ SMITH.
mark.

The above named Peter Smith maketh oath that he received the above mentioned abuse by the above named Robert Robb, at the time and place above mentioned, and that he, this deponent, has not been able, ever since receiving the above mentioned abuse, to follow his usual vocation as formerly.

his
PETER ✕ SMITH.
mark.

James Brady's Evidence between Peter Smith, Complainant, and Robert Robb, Defendant.

This deponent saith that on Friday, the 20th day of December last, Robert Robb did, at the house of this deponent's father and in his presence, violently beat and abuse the above said Smith, and continued so to do until he, this deponent, rescued him out of his hands. This deponent further saith that Robert Robb said he believed the Committee got very little satisfaction of him, and that they were a set of rascals, some of them were robbers, some were horse-thieves and some of them were murderers, and further saith not.

JAMES BRADY.

Jean Cannon's evidence.

This deponent saith that she saw Peter Smith immediately after difference with Robert Robb, and that said Smith seemed to

her to have been very much abused, as she understood by said Robert Robb. This deponent further saith that said Robb said the Committee was a set of rascals, some of them were horse-thieves, some robbers, and some of them were murderers.

And further saith not.

her
JEAN X CANNON.
mark

—
January 4th, 1777.

Resolved, That this Committee be adjourned until the 14th day of this inst., to meet at the house of George McCandlish.

—
January 14.

The Committee met by adjournment at the house of Mr. George McCandlish, and proceeded to hear the evidence of James Patton in behalf of Robert Robb.

James Patton being duly sworn, deposeth and said, that he, this deponent with Peter Smith and some others, were drinking together at the house of Capt. John Brady, when said Smith asked Mr. Robb what news; Mr. Robb answered that he desired none of his discourse, and asked James Brady if there was any fire in the new house. Brady said there was. Mr. Robb then got up and asked this deponent if he would go into the said house and drink share of half a pint. This deponent said he would. After sitting down, the aforesaid Smith came in. Says Mr. Robb, you have followed me here again, Peter. Mr. Robb further said, if you choose to sit here, I will go into the other house, and if you follow me I will flog you or turn you out. Mr. Robb then got up and asked this deponent to go with him to the other house. This deponent further saith that Mr. Robb said that once in his day he never thought to be tried by such men as some of the Committee: some of them had been tried for murder, and some for horse-stealing.

And further saith not.

JAMES PATTON.

Whereas, a certain Robert Robb was brought before the Committee of this county, on account of sundry charges proven against him, and a resolve of this committee entered thereon, bearing date December 17th, 1776, by virtue whereof he was committed to the custody of Col. James Murray, to be by him sent to some proper place of confinement until released by a superior authority, and whereas the said Col. Murry out of lenity to said Robb's family, saw fit to appoint the mansion house of the said Robb as a prison for him on a promise of his good behaviour for the future, but as said Robb hath since (as appears by

sufficient testimony given before this Committee,) very ungratefully abused the lenity shown him by said Col. Murray by barbarously beating and much abusing a certain Peter Smith of this county so as to render him unable for a considerable time to support himself and his small family by his industry as usual, as appears by the testimony of said Smith, and other evidences produced before this Committee, and whereas, he did at the same time not only despise all authority of this Committee, but also charge them with horse-stealing, robbery and murder, as appears by the testimony of said evidences, *Therefore, Resolved*, Notified to take, or order to be taken the aforesaid Robert Robb before the Council of Safety of this State, to whom he hath appealed, in order to answer the several charges proven against him before this Committee, which we have enclosed in a letter directed to the said Council of Safety, which you are desired to deliver with said prisoner.

Signed by order of Committee,

PAUL GEDDIS, Chairman.

January 15th, 1777.—Resolved, That notice be sent to Capt. Murray, requesting his attendance to-morrow morning, which was accordingly sent by Mr. Johnson.

January 16th.—Upon Capt. Murray's not appearing according to notice,

Resolved, That Thomas Combs be hired and sent with a second notice to Capt. Murray requesting his attendance immediately.

Upon Capt. Murray's non appearance upon second notice,

Resolved, That the aforesaid Thomas Combs be again sent with a third notice to Capt. Murray, and paid five shillings for his trouble.

January 17th.—Thomas Combs returned from Capt. Murray's, and brought a letter of which the following is a copy :

January 17th, 1777.

GENTLEMEN,—I sent you word by Mr. McKnight and Mr. Johnson that I would not act any longer as an officer, and since you wont take my word, I now send you my commission, and I hope you will believe me now.

WM. MURRAY.

To the Committee.

Upon Capt. Murray's non-compliance with the resolve of this committee,

Resolved, That Simeon Hemrord and Buchanan Smith be appointed to conduct Robert Robb to the Council of Safety of this State, and that they be paid two pounds, five shillings for their trouble.

Resolved, That the sum of one pound, ten shillings, be paid to Capt. John Hambright for this book, found by him for the use of this Committee.

Resolved, That Mordecai McKinney be paid by the Chairman one pound, two shillings and six pence, out of the balance received of Mr. Clay on account of expresses to the different officers of Col. Murray's battalion.

Job Jolloway applied to this Committee for a letter to Thomas Ferguson, to go with him to the Six Nations.

Resolved, That a letter be sent accordingly.

NORTHUMBERLAND, February 13th, 1777.

The following gentlemen being unanimously chosen by their respective townships to serve in the Committee of this County for the ensuing six months, met at the house of Laughlan McCartney in Northumberland, and gave in the following returns of their election, viz.:

Augusta Township.

Potter's Township.

John Livingstone,
John McMillan.

Turbutt Township.

Thomas Jordan,
John Nelson,
Josiah Espy.

Buffalo Township.

John Overhand,
Thomas Sutherland,
George Overmire.

Bald Eagle Township.

John Fleming,
James Hughs,
John Walker.

Mochonoy Township.

George Yeakle,
Henry Zartman,
Henry Krebs.

Penn's Township.

Andrew Moor,
David Miller,
Jacob Hosterman.

White Deer Township.

William Blyth,
James McCormak,
William Reed.

Muncy Township.

John Coats,
James Hampton,
William Hammond.

Mahoning Township.

Wyoming Township.

James McClure,
Peter Milleck,
John Clingman.

The Committee, according to order, proceeded to elect their Chairman and Clerk, when Thomas Jordan was unanimously chosen Chairman, and John Coats, Clerk.

Resolved, That this Committee be adjourned till Tuesday the 11th day of March next, when they are to meet at the house of George McCandlish, and as sundry of the townships have neglected to send out their members at this meeting, the Committee have ordered the Chairman to give notice to the said townships by public advertisement to attend at next meeting.

March 11th, 1777.

The Committee met according to adjournment, Mr. Thomas Jordan in the Chair.

Upon complaint's being made by a certain Allis Read, of Wyoming Township, that he the said Read, had a horse strayed or stolen from him some time ago, and was found in the custody of a certain John Drake, when said Read replevied the horse and got him and kept him in his possession for about six months, and then the widow of said Drake came and took him forcibly out of said Read's stable, he not being at home himself, and now keeps the horse and absolutely refuses to give him up again to the said Read,

Resolved, That Messrs. James McClure, Peter Milleck and John Clingman, with the assistance of the Committee of Wyoming Township, be a joint committee to meet at the house of James McClure in said township, on Saturday the 22d day of this instant, March, to hear the complaint and defence of both parties concerning the said horse, and that the Chairman of this Committee issue summons for the evidences of the complainer to attend at said meeting, which summons are to be served by the complainer himself, as also a summons for the said Widow Drake to attend with the horse and her evidences or reasons, if any she have, why the complainer should not have his horse upon proper proof's being made of his being his property, and the aforesaid persons are hereby authorised to judge and determine betwixt both parties, and upon proper proof's being made, give their final judgment in the matter.

A certain Captain Jacob Links, of Buffalo Township, appealed to this Committee in consequence of a resolve of the Committee of said township, a copy of which is as follows, viz.:

“Resolved, That Jacob Links does return several sums of money which a number of the inhabitants of this township did deliver to him for the use of purchasing salt, he, said Links, acknowledging he could have had salt, but it being troublesome times he was afraid he should suffer loss if he would purchase the salt, and a certain evidence did declare that he said he was going on

his own business to Philadelphia, and he, said Links, did not bring salt.

Dec. 21, 1776, by the Committee of Buffalo Township.

(Signed,) WILL IRWINE, Chairman."

In consequence of said appeal, Mr. Links was called in before this Committee and asked if he had evidence to produce. He said he had, but that he had them not then ready.

Resolved, That Mr. Links' appeal be referred till the next meeting of Committee, and that his evidence be summoned to attend.

Whereas, Col. or Capt. Benjamin Weiser has made complaint to this Committee that a number of persons who had been out under his command in the militia of this county in order to join the Continental Army in New Jersey, and that the said persons were deserted from him and returned home to this county, as the same is more fully expressed in a letter to this Committee, bearing date

craving their assistance.

Resolved, That a day of muster be assigned for the said persons to meet and march off to camp and serve out their time, allowing them to elect new officers if they had any objections to the old ones, certifying them also, that if they neglect to obey this resolve, they are to be taken up and committed as deserters.

Whereas, this Committee have received a letter from the Committee of the Township of Bald Eagle, together with a resolve of their Committee anent the selling of grain, &c., in their township, craving advice before they should carry their resolve into execution, of which the following is a copy:

Feb. 26th, 1776. We, the Committee of the Township of Bald Eagle met, and as a complaint was made to us by a number of the inhabitants that there is a quantity of rye that is going to be carried out of the township for stilling, and that there are some of the inhabitants which have not sold their grain as yet, nor will not sell without they get eighteen pence or two shillings per bushel above the highest market price that grain is giving in the county, but will keep it up and carry it off; and as it appears to us that a great number of the inhabitants of the township will suffer if such a practice is allowed to go on; therefore, we

Resolve, That no stiller in this township shall buy any more grain this season for to still, or still any more than what he hath already by him. And further, we resolve that no grain be carried out of this township till the necessity of the poor is supplied, or till the first day of May next; and any person having grain of any kind to dispose of and will not take the market price at Sunbury, deducting a reasonable carriage or the highest price that it will be there when the grain is wanted, we allow to seize on it

and take it by force, and pay them their money. Given under our hands the day and year above mentioned.

(Signed,) JOHN DICKSON,
ROBERT LOVE,
JAMES ERWIN.

Resolved, That the Committee of Bald Eagle is the most competent judges of the circumstances of the people in that township, that therefore the affair be referred back to them to act as they shall see just cause, but in the meantime that they be cautioned against using too much rigour in their measures, and that they keep by moderation as much as possible, and study a sort of medium between seizing of property and supplying the wants of the poor.

Whereas, Report has been made to this Committee of a certain Henry Sterrat profaning the Sabbath in an unchristian and scandalous manner, causing his servants to maul rails, &c., on that day, and beating and abusing them if they offered to disobey such his unlawful commands,

Resolved, That the Committee of Bald Eagle Township, where he now resides, be recommended to suppress such like practices to the utmost of their power.

Resolved, That this Committee be adjourned till Tuesday the 15th of April next, when it is again to meet at the house of Geo. McCandlish.

April 15th, 1777.

The Committee met according to adjournment, Mr. Thomas Jordan in the chair.

Whereas, a certain Jacob Trictbrueh, having disobeyed a summons issued by this Committee at their last sitting for him to have compeared at this meeting of Committee as evidence in the affair of Jacob Links,

Resolved, That a special warrant be now granted for bringing before this Committee to-morrow at nine o'clock.

April 17th.

Jacob Trictbrueh was brought before the Committee, and being duly sworn, he saith that he asked Capt. Links if he was the man that was to go to Philadelphia for salt, and the said Links answered that he was, and said that he had a sister in Philadelphia, and wanted to see her, and said it would suit him better to go than another who had no errand of their own, but says for his own part he was willing to allow Capt. Links whatever came to his share of the expenses at the same rate that the rest of his employers allowed him, and further saith not.

JACOB TRICTBRUEH.

Mr. George Overmire, a member of this Committee, declareth that he was present when Capt. Links agreed with his employers, and says that he was to have his expenses allowed him whether he got salt or not.

Capt. Links compeared and produced his account for travelling expenses, which amounted to £5 15, acknowledging the receipt of £39 from his employers, part of which he had yet in his hands, and says he could have got salt, but it being salt that had been already purchased or allotted for the use of this county, and was to be distributed over the county at large, it was not answering his purpose to bring it, and there was no other salt he could get to purchase.

Resolved, That Capt. Links be authorized to keep the sum of two shillings and eleven pence half penny, out of every pound of his employers' money for payment of his expenses, as his account appears to this Committee to be very moderate.

Whereas, a certain William Read, of Bald Eagle Township, has been taken into custody and carried before this committee to answer for his conduct in refusing to associate and bear arms in behalf of the States, and being asked his reasons for so refusing, his answers were as follows, viz:

That he was once concerned in a riot that happened in Ireland, commonly known by the name of the Hearts of Steel, and was taken prisoner, tried and acquitted upon his taking an oath of allegiance to the king, and coming [under] solemn obligations never to lift arms against him for the future, he therefore looked upon it as a breach of his oath to muster or bear arms in behalf of the States, as the arms of the States were now employed against the king to whom he had sworn allegiance.

Being further asked if he had any objections to the cause the United States were now engaged in, he said he had not any, and would be as forward and willing as any to join in it, could he do it without breach of his oath. Being asked if he would take an oath of allegiance to the United States, he said he would if it did not oblige him to take up arms.

Accordingly an oath was tendered to him, and he swore as follows:

I do swear to be true to the United States of America, and do renounce and disclaim all allegiance to the king of Great Britain, and promise that I will not either directly or indirectly speak or act any thing in prejudice to the cause or safety of the States, or lift arms against them, or be any way assistant to their declared enemies in any case whatsoever.

WM. READ.

Whereupon, the Committee resolved to dismiss him upon his paying the sum of seventeen shillings and one penny half penny, being the costs of bringing him before the Committee.

In consequence of sundry accounts from different parts of the county, of a dangerous plot's being on foot by some of our enemies to bring on an Indian war, and in particular by an intercepted letter wrote by a certain Nicholas Pickard, directed to a certain John Pickard at the house of Caspar Read, in Penns Township with all speed, a copy of which was transmitted to us by Nathaniel Landon, of Wyoming, and is now before this Committee, and is as follows :

Wyoming, March 7th, 1777.

Worthy Friend,—I cannot omit but write you a few lines that I am in a good state of health, and further I let you know that as soon as the river is clear of ice, we shall march from every part, therefore I would advise you as a friend to go out of the way, for we then, as soon as the river is clear of ice, intend to cut all off, therefore I think it is better for you to go out of the way with the rest, for against May it will go as you heard it should go. Perhaps against Easter I will be with you, then I shall tell you further and give you a better account of it. No more at present, but I remain your trusty friend. Give my compliments to them all a thousand times, tell them all that I intend to see them soon. I have wrote to you as much as I durst.

(Signed)

NICHOLAS PICKARD.

In consequence of which letter, Col. James Murray, and Capt. James Espy, were sent out by order of this Committee in search of the said Nicholas and John Pickard.

April 17th.—Capt. Espy returned and brought the body of John Pickard before this Committee, and being legally sworn upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God,

He saith that he went up the river some time about last Christmas from Middletown to Wyoming, in a boat, and at Wyoming he met with the aforesaid Nicholas Pickard, his own cousin, and that they two went by land about twenty miles further up the river to a place called Tankhannock, to see some friends, and being in the house of a certain Nicholas Phillips, he the said Phillips told his cousin and him that the Indians had told him they would come down and cut all off against this spring, or as soon as they got their orders, and that they would in particular strike upon the Mohawk river, and the waters of the Susquehannough, and that when he parted with the said Nicholas at that time, he promised to write to the deponent as soon as he thought there was immediate danger, so that he might go out of the way, withal telling him that the Indians did not want to kill any that did not take up arms against them, so that if he would go out of the way, or lie still on one side, there would be no danger of him. And further told him about a fortnight ago that there were 500 Indians at Shamung, waiting for their orders from Niagara. Likewise that

he the deponent asked the said Nicholas what his reason was for coming down to Caspar Read's at that time, (being about a fortnight ago,) and he told him that the Yankees were going to apprehend him for a tory, and that a certain Dennis Clark came to him about midnight and gave him notice of it, and accordingly he made his escape down the river to Caspar Read's or that neighbourhood. And he has told the deponent that he has wrote him two letters, one of which was sent by a man of the name of Clark, which the deponent thinks is the same Clark that gave him notice to go off, and that Clark took sick upon the way, and when he could not proceed forward with the letter by reason of his illness he threw the letter in the fire and burnt it, and that the contents of the letter was that the Indians were coming down, and for the deponent to go out of the way, and further saith not.

JOHN PICKARD.

An oath of allegiance to the United States being proposed to John Pickard, and bail for his good behaviour, he complied with both, and produced Caspar Read as his bail, who bound himself in a bond of an hundred pounds for the good and orderly behaviour of John Pickard for a year and a day next to come after this date. Then the oath of allegiance was tendered to him and he swore as follows:

I do swear to be true to the United States of America, and do renounce and disclaim all allegiance to the King of Great Britain, and promise that I will not either directly or indirectly speak or act any thing in prejudice to the cause or safety of the states, or lift arms against them, or be any way assistant to their declared enemies in any case whatsoever. So help me God.

JOHN PICKARD.

Upon the satisfaction given to the Committee by the said John Pickard, it was unanimously agreed that he be dismissed.

April 17th. Colonel Murray returned and brought the body of Nicholas Pickard before this Committee, and being [questioned] anent the aforesaid letter confesseth that he wrote it, and a copy of the letter being read unto him he acknowledged the same in every particular, and further confesseth that he is in connection with the ministerial troops at Niagara, and that he has taken an oath of allegiance to the King of Britain, but says he was forced to it, and further concerning the letter he says that he wrote it in a kind of mysterious manner, by reversing the letters so that it might not be understood in case it should be intercepted, and that he sent it by a person of the name of Dennis Clark, and that he has seen said Clark since that time, who told him that he took sick upon the way, and seeing that he could not get the letter forwarded he had burnt it.

He likewise says that one Nicholas Phillips at Tankhannock notified him and several others thereabouts to move away with their families and connections to a place called 'Tiogo in the Indian country, as the English were coming down to cut off the inhabitants upon the waters of the Mohawk river and the Susquehannough. That there were 15,000 of the ministerial troops at Niagara, which were to be divided ; 4,000 of them were to come down the North Branch and 4000 down the West Branch of Susquehannough, and 7000 down the Mohawk river, and a number of Indians were to be along with them, and that the person who informed this Phillips of it was one John De Peu, who is gone off and joined the English at Niagara, and that he sent him this piece of information by an Indian after he went off.

Upon due deliberation upon the examination of Nicholas Pickard, the Committee are unanimously of opinion that he is an enemy to the States ; therefore

Resolved, That he be immediately sent from before this Committee to the Supreme Executive Council of this State, to be dealt with as their superior judgments shall direct them in the case, and that John Coats be the person who shall carry him thither, and that he call as many to his assistance as may be needful.

Resolved, That this Committee be adjourned till the 10th day of June next, when they are to meet at the house of Mr. Laughlan McCartney in Northumberland.,

☞ It was confidently expected that the Bulletin Committee would have been able to commence the publication of the papers relating to the Battle of Brandywine in this number, but the delay in procuring the survey of the battle-ground (doubtless owing to the wet weather during the last two months) has prevented the accomplishment of this expectation. There is every reason to believe that it will be in readiness for the September number.

